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EXTRACTS

FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF

THE REV. JOHN FISKE,

1637-1675.

With an Introduction

By SAMUEL A. GREEN.

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JOHN FISKE'S NOTE-BOOK.

At a meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held in Boston on Thursday, October 13, 1898, Dr. Samuel A. Green communicated some extracts from the Rev. John Fiske's Note-book, and made the following remarks: —

Some years ago I came into the possession of a Note-book kept by the Rev. John Fiske during his several pastorates at Salem, Wenham, and Chelmsford. From the time of his arrival here from England, in the year 1637, Mr. Fiske was living in Salem till about 1641, when he went to Wenham, and later became the first minister of the church gathered there on October 8, 1644. His third child, Moses (H. C. 1662), was born at Wenham on April 12, 1642, and baptized at Salem in the following June. The record of this son's birth seems to show that the father was living at Wenham two or three years before his settlement in that town as the pastor. In 1655 Mr. Fiske removed to Chelmsford, where also he was the first minister, and remained there until the day of his death on January 14, 1676–7.

The entries in the book relate almost wholly to cases of church discipline within the membership, to church meetings where theological matters were brought up and discussed, and to ecclesiastical councils held in the neighborhood, together with a sprinkling of baptisms, and names of persons admitted to the Covenant. They cover a period of time extending from the year 1637 to July 25, 1675, eighteen months before

his death. In regard to genealogical or historical facts, — and these are the items most wanted to-day, — the entries are singularly meagre, and give us but little of either interest or value. The theology of those early times in New England may be as important now as then, but it is not so highly prized. The old manuscript, however, brings down to us the details of many matters of ecclesiastical polity which in their day were deemed vital by the founders of our Puritan Commonwealth.

The pages of the book are about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$ in dimensions, and they number 344 (or 172 leaves), of which 48 pages are blank, or nearly so. The book opens with the Covenant of the Church of Christ at Salem, which is followed by 178 names, though not autograph signatures. Owing to a bad tear through three of the leaves, and the consequent loss of a part of the writing, a portion of the text and some of the names are gone. The first twenty-five pages have been printed in the "Historical Collections of the Essex Institute" (I. 37–44) for May, 1859; and the part there given is a fair sample of the rest. This printed copy also shows what portion of the text and how many names are missing in the original manuscript. Near the beginning of the book, immediately following the Salem records, sixteen leaves have been torn out, which presumably were blank, but the stubs still remain.

The handwriting is very hard to read, and contains many abbreviations and nondescript characters which it is impossible to represent in type. At that period of time it was very common for ministers to have some knowledge of short-hand writing; and in the Note-book certain words and syllables are indicated by arbitrary signs, the same as were used in stenography. In the copy here given of certain extracts, such abbreviations and characters for the most part have been spelled out in full. When Mr. Fiske began his pastorate at Wenham, he turned the book over and made his entries at the other end of the volume, and thus continued them even during his settlement at Chelmsford.

Mr. Fiske, while at Chelmsford, prepared a Catechism (Cambridge, 1657) for the use of children, which was printed at the expense of the town. Copies of this little tract are now excessively rare, and probably not more than one or two remain in existence. A good specimen is preserved in the Lenox Library, New York. For a bibliographical description of the

pamphlet, see the Proceedings (second series, IX. 411, 412) of this Society for February, 1895. At that period there were, perhaps, a dozen or fifteen other places in New England which had published similar catechisms for the religious instruction of the young. In all towns it was the custom to assemble the children often, and, under the direction of the minister, to catechise them on matters connected with their spiritual welfare.

The following extracts from the Note-book relate to this early custom as practised in Chelmsford, which was then a fair representative town of the times. These entries throw a good deal of side-light on the bringing up of youth in those days, and they also allude incidentally to certain interesting facts connected with the publication of Mr. Fiske's Catechism. During that period, throughout New England, the education of the young in some respects may have been sombre, but it was sturdy and homespun in its fibre, and brought out the marks of manhood and womanhood.

27 of 4 [1646] concluded in the Church that the 3d. d. of week at time the laws goe forth the childrē to cō forward to be catechized & to giue accont of what they learnd of the s^{r}m̄ sab. before. to pasto^{r}s house . .

& togethr heerewithal in the 4 place of the refusall (as we vnderstood). to disburse their pportion to the Catech. printing, wch the Ch: stands engaged to see satisfyed.[1] . . .

23 of 10 58 Voted by the Church that the 33^{shs} 9^{d} wch the Church stood engagd to see pd to Br. James Parker for the Catechises should be for p^{r}snt lent to him out of the Church stock. & if light app hraftē to the Church where it lies behind, to be taken in to the deacos hand on the accont of the catechizes in lew of this loane if not light, then this pte of the Church stock to be here levyed in his hands as assignd to the dischrge of this debt of the Church. . . .

6 of 12 64 A Church meeting Catechizing. Agreed by the Church. that the sā course of catechizg of all under 16. yeers old. be attended at the house of the pastō. viz. for mayds the day aftē the Lecture. & for youths the 2d. day of the weeke following the lecture.

It[em] That for all yong men abone 16. yeers old, vnmarryd. That it be moved, who will voluntarily app to giue in their Names to Answr in publick. & for such as shall decline: if Children of the Church. that the Church shall see that they attend to be catechisd by the pastō,

[1] From a letter written by Mr. Fiske to Esdras Read, under date of January 31, 1657–8, and copied into the Note-book.

in his House upon the 2d. day of the week monthly aftē the lecture at the usual time, of meeting (viz. aboute 3 of the clock in aftrnoone & if they shall negl. to come on one day, to bring as much the next time, as may pportion the Time. This votd.

That we begin the worke in publ. about the begining of 2^{d} month The Catechases to be đđ out by Bro. Kemp at 6^{d} p peece. . . .

30. of 4. 69 The Church mett . . .

After this. It was pposed the way of Catechising frō house to house. & the yong or vnmarried psos to meet at sō one house of 4 or 5. the maryed to be visitd in their owne houses

In the Note-book Mr. Fiske gives many interesting facts connected with the removal of his church from Wenham to Chelmsford. In September, 1654, the proposal for the change came from certain brethren who spoke for the Chelmsford church. Various meetings were held by the Wenham church in order to consider the subject; and after much deliberation the matter was referred to Governor Endicott and five other prominent men for their counsel. These persons favored the plan, and recommended the proposed removal, which was carried out during the autumn of 1655. In the early history of the Colony there were several other similar instances where churches migrated in a body. At this late day all the causes leading up to such changes are not clear, but it is probable that local dissensions were closely connected with them.

I have copied the various entries in regard to births, baptisms, etc., which will be of service to genealogical students. I have also given the action taken by the Chelmsford church in regard to the removal of three families to the neighboring town of Groton in the year 1662, in order to show the great formality attending their separation from that body. No church had then been gathered at Groton, and perhaps the want of religious instruction there may explain the reluctance of the Chelmsford members to have their brethren remove thither, and live so far away from the sanctuary of the Lord. I have also copied several other matters of interest, one of which is the expression of the church when Mr. Fiske's son, Moses, was about to leave home and go to college. Previous to his departure for Cambridge, he appeared before the members and owned the Covenant, and made public vows that he would be true to the church.

A few of the names found in these pages are not given by Mr. Savage in his Genealogical Dictionary, but some of the facts herein mentioned are stated by him, — for instance, the date of the baptism of Mr. Fiske's son, Moses, and that of his second daughter, Anna, which must have come originally from this old manuscript. I am inclined to think that Mr. Savage never saw the Note-book, but probably Mr. Felt had used it, and may have furnished him with some of the facts therein found.

THE CHILDREN OF JOHN & ANNA FISKE

Born in N. E.

1638 John. borne the 29th of 6t
bapt. the 2d of 7. } Salem mr Petrs

Escaped a grte danger at wenhã, in passing with the streame vndr the mill wheele, when the mill was a goeing. An. 1647. 6t of 3d at what time he receid (as twere) a new life. not a bone broke &c.

1640 Sarah. borne 24. of 5t
bapt. 26t of 5. } Salem. mr pet

1642. Moses. borne 12 of 2d at Wenhã
bapt. 0– of 4t at Salem [1] by mr Norice

1644 Anna. borne 15t of 11th
1645 —— baptised 2. of 1st (the 1st child bapt. at } Wenham

1646. Eli-ezer. borne 8t of 12th
bapt. 15. of 12. } Wenham.
he Deceased 16. of 10. 49.)

1671. The sd. Anne Fiske wife to the sd. Jno ffiske haueing lined with him about 37. yeers. deceased 14. of 12th.mo. at Chelmsford.

1672. Elizabeth Hinksmã [widow of Edmund] marryed to the sd. Jno ffiske 1. of 6.mo at Chelmsford. . . .

2d of 1st 45.

This day, being Lords day, the Seale of Baptisme was Administred in this Church, the 1st time the Church had the seale Administd wch by reason of the season, 1 sab: before the Church being constrynd to meete in or pastors house: & now a 2d time, (wch was continued the Church meeting there 2 or 3. Sab: after.)

The Church memb Baptised, was Anna Fiske daughtr to John Fiske Pastor. . . .

On one Lo: day in this interī. in the 4t.mo John Moulton Baptised.

[1] The date of this baptism is not clear. The record was made, probably, at a later time, and perhaps then Mr. Fiske had forgotten the exact date.

On Lo: day. 6^{t} m^{o}. we had the seals of the Supp & also the seale of Bapt. Samuel Fiske, & Sarah Geere Baptised. . . .

Mary Herse baptisd. 3^{d} mo. 46 . . .

this d. being sab. Benjamin fairefeild the sone of g. fairefeild & his wife of Salem Baptised 27 of 4. . . .

Br. Rich dodge of the Church of Salem had a child baptisd here . . .

Baptised. Eliezer Fiske the son of John Fiske & Anna his wife
Baptised. Sarah Norton the daughter of Geo: Norton
} 15 of 12 46..

Ephraim Geere baptisd. 17 of 2^{d} [1647] . . .

this day Elizabeth Moulton daughter of br. Ja. Moulto &c Baptised. 9 of 5. 47

this day Joseph Batcheler the son of Sister Batcheler (& bro. Joseph Batcher deceased in month 1st) baptised. 22. of 6. 47 . . .

Joseph the son of W^{m} Fisk & Bridget his wife Baptised. 21 of 3^{d} [1648] . . .

15. of 8 or thrabouts Mary the daught^{r} of Rich. & Mary Goldsm. Baptisd

29. of 8 or thrabts. the wife of John Shiply Receivd into Cov^{t}. hauing made hr relation & declared hrselfe as. the opinion of the wo: of Eli. hourd she had ben taken with them & the mattr in qu. before the Church being cleared. & laye Test. coming fr Sale^{m} divrs of the Church besids the Elds on hr behalfe.

abt a 3 week after hr 3. children John. Nath. & Lidia Baptisd

abt this Time Joseph the sõ of Rich Dodge & his wife baptisd . . .

14 of 5^{t} 50. Sarah the daughter of Bro: Goldsm. & his wife baptisd...

Vpon 4 of 7th 1654 was dated a L^{r} vnder the hands of Rob^{t} Fletcher, Tho: Adams, W^{m} Fletcher, W^{m} Buttereck in the nã of the rest, engaged in the N. plantation at Chelmsford. whrin the pastõ with the rest of this church at Wenham were Invited

This L^{r} being aftrwrds conveyed to vs by the hands of Isa: Lernet & Tho: Adams. was cõicated to the church. & a Liberty by the Majo^{r} pte graunted so far to attend the pvidence: as to pmit the pastor to Goe ouer & see the place

accordingly a day was set of meeting at Chelmsford. & thrupõ the messengers returned

Vpon the sd. day set divrs of the Brethren accompanyed the pastõ ouer vnto Chelms. where the comittee & divers others were p^{r}snt a view was taken of the place. The Brethren p^{r}sent satisfyed themselves aboute there accommodations. & pposalls were then made to the pastõ for his accommodation & yeerely mayntenance. as to be tendred vnto

him by consent of the whole numb of Inhabitants & in their nā by the Committee

These pposales were pmised, with their furthr request to be taken into consideratiō, & in sō short seasō after the Returne an Answer & resolution to be sent by Br. Spalding, as at his coming ouer.

After this Returne of the pastor & Brethren upon the 10th of 8mo 54 the resolution & engagmt of divrs of the Brethren was in the face of the whole church, at a Church meeting concluded upō whras 5. absolutely engaged. 2 conditionally & in word only, refusing at prsnt to subscribe their hands. yet after sent their Engagemts psonally by Bro: Spalding, so as the greater number of the Church now stood engagd, in case the pastor engaged also

Vpon 6t of 9mo the pastō Sent his Engagmts by Bro: Spalding & his Resolutiō, as Respecting the engagt of so many Brethren as sd.

Thus the matter Lay dormant as twere all winter till the 1st mo. 55. at what time Bro: Read coming ouer enformed us in such wise here at Wenhā, as thrvpō both the P. & the sd engaged Brethren demurred upō the pceedings & some th' had sold heere at Wenhā, redeemed their accomodations agayne into their possession

& a Lr. was sutably sent by Br. Read to acquainte the Chelmesf. Comittee how things stood, & advisd to stead themselves elswhere.

Betwene this time & the 6t of 4t mo 55. things hung vncertayne & vncleered, notwithstanding some Lrs. passed & some agitatiō at Wenhā betwene Isa: Lernet agent fr Chelmsfd & Wenhā Brethren. But as upō 6' of 4th aforesd was dated a Lr. & sent by the hands of Isa: Lernet Sim: Thompsō & Tho: Adams. with full powr to them to treate & finally to determine ths busines depending betwene both pties.

Vpon there coming ouer to Wenham. The Matter was determined betwene them & the sd. pastor touching the Building of the house Terms of Accommodation & of yeerly mayntenance., as under there hands affixed to the Lrs was sent before dated in first month tenth day.

likewise it was concluded betwene them & the Brethren at Wenham to refer the matter to Counsell; & the pties agreed upon were. Mr Endicot Govrnor Mr Mather, Mr Allen of Dedhā. Mr Cobbet. Mr Shermā. Capt. Johnsō. of Woobuerne who determined the case for Chelmsford.

This case thus determined: on either side prpation was made for the Removal of the Church.

Accordingly about the 13th of 9mo 55. there were met at Chelmsfd. the pastō with the engaged Brethren of Wenham church viz. Ezdras Read, Edw. Kemp. Austin Killam. Sa: Foster. Geo: Byam & Rich. Goldsmith. seauen in all To whom such of the Brethren of Woobnrne & Concord ch: who had before ppounded themselues to joyne with the ch:

late at Wenham, Now in Removeing to Chelmsford. & p[r]sented themselues. with there L[rs] of Dismission: upon satisfaction & Testimony Giuen were by an vnanimous vote Received into fellowship They being the greater numb. in way of mutual complyance, a Relatiõ passd on either side, as each one voluntarily would:

			memb[rs] sig[d]
Viz.	Isaack Lernett	(he dyed 8. of 10. 57.	1
	Simon Thompson	(he dyed about 3 q[rs] of a y. after at Ooburne	2
	W[m] Vnderwood		3
	Abram Parker.		4
	Benja: Butterfeild		5
	Tho: Chamberlin		6
Next received			
	Dan. Blogged who brought l[rs] of dismission from the Ch: at Cambridge		7

So after this the seales of the supp administred & there were admitted by vote these Members of other churches, to cõion with us in these seales.

M[r] Griffin
W[m] fletcher & his wife
Tho: Adams) & his wife
Br. Vnd[r]woods wife
(Edw. Spalding)
Bro: Butterfeilds wife
Bro: Chamberlins wife
Edm: Chamberlins wife
Abram Parkers wife
Jos. Parkers wife
Isa: Lernets wife
Sim: Thompsons wife

since Rec[d]: into fellowship was Jacob Parker 8

It[em]. Tho: Adams. & Edw. Spalding. on 27 of 2[d] 56 9 10

Children Baptised.

Isaack Lernets child viz. Isaack Lernett
Abr. Parkers child. viz. Mary. Parker
Jos. parkers wiues child. viz. Anna Parker
Dan Bloggeds child viz. Anna Blogged
Bro: Vnderwoods child viz. Samuel. Vnderwood
Tho: Adams child viz. Edith Adams

3 children of Jacob parkers viz. on 19 of 2d. 56. { Jacob. Sarah. Thomas.

Vpon 27th of 2d. Serj. Hildrick of the ch : of Cambr. received vnto the seale of the supp as a memb of the Church.

It. ppounded to the Ch : this day. to consider about the choyse of some to the worke of the Deacon.

Vpon 11. of 4. 56. a publick gnāl fast

In the close of the day was the Church Covt renewed repeated & voted by the Brethren.

It[em] there were received into or covt pfessing their willingness to owne that or covt. as had ben exprssed

11 William Fletcher } dismissed
1 Bro : Adams his wife } fro the Church Mary Adams.
2 Bro. Vndrwoods wife } of Concord Sara Vndrwood
3 Anna Butterfeild the wife of Bro : Butterfeild
4 Mary Chamberlin the wife of Bro : Tho : Chamblin
5 Mary Lernett the wife of Bro : Isaack Lernet
6 Mary Thompsō the wife of Bro : Symō Thōson
7 Rose parker the wife of Bro : Abrā Parker
8 Margaret Parker. the wife of Joseph parker
9 Mary Chamberlin, the wife of Edmond chamblin
dismissed to us frō the Church of Ooburne.

Edmond Chamblin the sō of the l. sd. Mary Chamblin baptised 29 of 4 56. This d. the Lo : supp & here cōicatd with vs. Rob. Proctor of Concord

Rafe Hill & his wife } of ooburne
Geo : Farly }
Wm Baker of the Church of charlestowne

This day agreed by the Church that the officer should repeate & declare the Relation of the wo : to the Church :

Also. That when any such psō as haue ben yet no memb to any Church congregated orderly ppounds himself the sā be ppounded to the Church prvately, Testimony concerning their life & convrsation be enqred into, sd psos be assigned to be joynd with the officer the day set & libty for any othr the brethren or sisters to be prsent at the first Tryall.

6 of 5 56. Agreed that next Lo : day the Bre. should bring in ther votes by pap for the nōiation of one Deacō he that had the greater numb of votes to haue the 1st place in nōiatiō & in case the Church agreed not aboute him, then in the 2d place, the 2d next & so forth.

& in case the ch. came to a joynt agreemt about one, then that one accepting of the call to haue the libty of nōiating a 2d.

It. Testim. this day was giuen touching Jo : Nutting & his wife who had propounded themselves to or fellowship. viz. Isa : Lernet Sim. Thomson Abram Parker.

13 of 5. 56. Isaack Lernet was chosen as afforesd to officiate the office of a Deacõ by way of probation aduised to leaue the place of a serjant as too gʳte a brden to retayne bth that & this too. & at the end of ½ the yeere. he to be ꝑposed to the Church for officer.

After sõ Agitation, & modest refusal at 1st, he was ꝑsuaded to accept of it, wch he doeing desired withall the prayers of the Church

It was left with him at his liḃty to nõiate a 2d to be joynd with him upon next Lo: day. wch if upõ consideration here they should refuse, the Church then to be in a readines by pap vots as before to bring in for nõiatiõ. & the ꝓceeding aftrwd to be as before, In the absence of the ꝑsõ nõiated to discusse the matter, & in case of a closure, to ꝓceed accordingly

Before this choyse of Is: Larnet to a Decons place. (whose wrke was declared to lye in taking care & ꝓviding by all due just & lawfull outward meanes the supporting & continuing of the Ordin: to the Church)

There was Joyned to the Church

Joh: Nutting after his Relation made
assent manifested to the ꝑfession & covᵗ of the Church

It. Jo: Nuttings wife. hr relation being repeated by the officer of the Church.

20 of 5. 56 The qu. being put upõ what account the Church ꝓceed to a new election. there being 2 brethren wᶜʰ had officiatd by a call of the Church of wenhã in that place pʳsent, & not put out, by any cause alledged.

Vpon this Bro: Lernet decline the call, as quering the openes of it

1. It answrd that the Church ꝓceeded to this way as resoluing it this day forthnight, that twas upõ mutuel agremt betwene the Church & them the brethren frely laying downe

& Bro: Read ag: this day expʳssd himself both to lay downe & also to decline to accept of the call, if he shld be desired & called, fõ sõ Reasons by him alledged.

Bro: Kemp likewise lay downe & consnt to for sake of the pʳmises

It referrd to next Lo: day to agitate & ripen for a vote whithr Bro: Fletcher haueing oʳ vots of noiation or Broʳ Kemp. for 6ᵐᵒ shall cõ unanisly to be pitcht upon

This Lo: day Bro: Bloggeds wife ꝓpounded to the Church 27 of 5.

It Bro: Wᵐ fletcher chosen by gn̄al vote to occupy the place of a Deacõ with Bro: Lernet. & accepted it

Bro: Kemp also by silent consent, after so agitatiõ occasioned. by a pʳtended case of conscience put by him how he could lay downe his place without sõ reflection upõ his good Name, was ꝓmitted by the Church to continue the place upõ probation. [In margin] Deacons ꝓbationary elected Isaack Lernet Wᵐ Fletchr Edw. Kemp.

it gaue occasion of examining the principles we went upõ vnto a new choyse.

& found this as by the acknowl^{dt} of many Brethren.

1 that the Church of wenhã vpõ the Remoue hither, not haueing any Deacons in office, did refer the matter to a n. choyse, so as the Brethr. of Chelm: being the grter numb might equally with them haue satisfaction thrin, as enjoying the libty with them. as was manifest at the coming up, upõ the receiuing in the Chelmsf. Brethr. into the Cov^{t}.

& that by comõ consent Br: Kemp was to be continued untill the spring, when they together shld pceed to a new election & this by Br: Kemp consntd th^{r}to.

Also that this day 3 week Br. Read & Bro: Kemp both consnted to the Church^{s} pceding in that way.

likewise this day forthnight they acted with the Church in the choyse of Bro: Lernet.

likewise this day seuenight they both ag. declared themselves to lay downe & to pceed with the Church

this day also Bro: Read fvlly declared himself before the election pceeded. but Bro: Kemp seing wch way the election would worke ag declared himself as before. wch causd sõ pplexaty in o^{r} pceedings more the vanity of experimting till what time twas concluded as sd.

Three of John Nuttings children Baptised { John. James. 3 of 6. 56 Mary.

Test. cã in of the conversation of Bro: Bloggeds wife, such as wch was satisffactory. & the 3^{d} day set for the Tryal & examination. this day the seales of the supp [In margin] 10. of 6. Br: Bloggeds wife

The wife of Bro: Blogged admitted into the Church Cov^{t} & fellowship. 17 of 6^{t}

The letts dimissory for James Parker frõ the Church of ooburne were red & he making his Relation &c & Testifying his assent to o^{r} Church pfessiõ was admitted into o^{r} Covt. 24. of 6^{t}

24 of 9th 56 Sister fletcher p^{r}senting hr l^{rs} of dismissiõ frõ Concord Church was admitted to the Cov^{t} of this Church.

1s^{t} of 11th 56 This day a Church meeting agreed upõ Lo: day before. (whrin there being absent these Brethren viz. Adams Read Vnd^{r}wood Blogged. Foster. he being detynd by illness

24. of 11 the Church p^{r}sent concluded of these following ppositions w^{ch} had ben before for Aboute a q^{r} of a yeere from time to time still in agitation.)

1 of 11. 56 & voted vnanimously the forme. In the forme as followes

Children of the Church.

We do conceiue

1. That all they that are in Ch: Covt are ch: members.
2. That Bapt. (being the initiation seale of the Covt) belongs of right to all such.

(These two were voted by the whole Church the Lords day seuennight before.

1 of 11. 56

And this day the Church ꝑceeded in the rest as followes

3. That the Children of Church members, vnder the age of 14 or 15. y. when there pñts tooke the Covt are included in there pñts Covt & to be reputed members, & consequently to be Baptised, not haueing ben before Baptised.
4. That the Ch: is not bound to extend her inspection & care oñ them: & as they grow to exceed the sd yeeres, to exercise ch: discipline towards them, in case of their being Scandalous.
5. That the Church is likewise bound in pursuance of this her care ouer them, to stir them up to acquaint themselues betimes with God & with his will, & accordingly to get the knowledge of the Principles of Religiõ & to avoyd scandall in there Liues
6. That such of these as being vnder the Age of 14 or 15 yeeres, shall behaue themselues Scandalously (as by Lying, filthy cõication, or othrwise: shalbe responsible to the Ch: by there next pñts: as either there nāāl pñts, or such as be in there stead (if of the Church)
7. That such of thes as haue attayned the knowl. & vnderstanding of the prnciples of Religiõ, & are without just scandall are to be Encouraged to lay hold on & to owne there pñts Covt ꝑsonally.
8. That such of these yonger Ones as haue once thus ꝑsonally Engagd in Covt may prsent there Children to Baptisme, now in there right who are there next parents.
9. That notwithstanding the sd. yonger ꝑsons, should be in ꝑsonall Covt, & priviledged with the Baptisme of there children. as sd. yet as the case may require, The ch: may doe regularly to satisfy themselues touching there further fitnes ere they yeeld them the liberty, of ꝑtakeing in the Lords Supp & of voteing in ch: affaires
10. That in Order to the Chs satisfaction this way, A Confession of the faith, & a Relation of the manner of Gods working with there soules, may be required; euen of these.

Heereof L^rs to the Ch. at Concord & ooburne were determined to be sent to acquaint them with this.

Br. Adams made sõ proposalls (to be sent also) wch for (ad-penepr^m)

1 of 12 56. Vpon this day the Brethren p^rsented their Childr, names & Ages as follow

1 Bro. Lernet
- Mary about 10 y. old 15 of 5. 56
- Anna 8. yeere old 11 of 6. 56
- William 6. y. old l. day 8. 56
- Sarah 4. y. old 15. of. 9. 56
- Isaack 2 y. old. l. of 8. in y. 57.
- Benoni bapt. 17. of 10. 57. •

2 Br. W^m Fletcher at this time
- John Bates aboute 15 y. old
- Josua Fletcher about 12 y. old
- Lidia. about 9 y. old
- Samuel about 4 y. old
- Paule aboute 2 y. old

2 Br. Th: Adams
- Mary
- Jonathan
- Pelatiah
- Timothy
- Samuel
- Ædith.

4 Br. James Parker
- Elizabeth 12 y. old 4. of 1^st 57
- Anna 10. y. old & 14 dayes.
- John 8. y. old & 12. dayes.
- James 5. y old about 15 of 2^d 57.
- Josiah 4. y. old & 4 months
- Samuel 6. m. old.

5 Br Abrah. Parker
- Anna 11. y. old in 8 mo: 56.
- John 9. y. old in 8 mo. 56
- Abrahã 4. y. old in 6. mo. 56
- Mary 1. y. old in 9^mo 56.

Bro: Jacob Parker
- Jacob. 4. y. old in 3^mo 56
- Sarah 2. y. old in 2^d mo. 56
- Thomas 1. y. old in 1^st mo. 57.

Br. Vnderwood
- Remembrance about 15. y. old
- Sarah aboute 14. y. old
- Priscilla about 10 y. old
- Aquilla about 8. y. old.
- Deborah aboute 4 y. old.
- Samuel 1. y. old 1^mo 57

He on 17 of 5.57 drowned. & on 18. of 5. buryed. On the gnãl tryning day he dyed. being in washing.

S[ister]. Vnderwoods son	Tho: Pellet 22. y. old.
Bro. Tho Chamberlin.	Anna about 20 y. old Thomas. about 17. y. old Samuel Chāblin aboute 10. y. old Mary. about 6. y. old
The wife of Edmond Chamberlin	Mary. about 8. y. old Sarah about 7. y. old Elisabeth about 5. y. old. John aboute 3. y. old Edmond about ½ a y. old
Bro. Benj. Butterfeild	Benjamin aboute 20. y. old Jonathan aboute 15. y. old Nathaniel about 11½. Samuel about 8. y. old Joseph aboute 6. y. old.
Bro. Blogged	Thomas 2. y. old on 24 of 11. 56. Anna. 1. y. old on 2d of 9. 56. Daniel Borne 7 of 11. 56.
Bro. Read.	Bethiah aboute 19 y. old Obadiah about 17. y. old
Bro. Spalding	John about. 23 y. old Edward aboute 21 y. old Benjamin 14. y. old on 4 of 2d. 56. Joseph 10. y. old on 25 of 8. 56 Dinah 7. y. old on 14 of 1. 56. Andrew 4 y. old on 19 of 9. 56
Bro. Foster.	Hannah about 7. y. old Samuel aboute 6. y. old Eli. aboute 3. y. old.
S[ister]. Shipley who was admitted into Covt with this Church at Wenhā 15. of 8. 48	John aboute 19. y. old Nathaniel aboute 17. y. old Lidia aboute 15. y. old
Bro: Nutting	John 5. y. old 25 of 6mo 56 James 3. y. old 30 of 4. 56. Mary 1. y. old 10 of 11. 56
Bro. Symō Thompsō	Sarah 10. y. old on 25 of 12 56 James 7. y. old 15 of 1. 56 Mary. 5. y. old 9 of 11. 56. Anna 1. y. old 30 of 5. 56. . . .

William the Son of W^{m} Fletcher Baptised 8. of 1. 57

Elizabeth the Daughter of Rob. Procter baptised . . .

3mo 57. Edward Foster The son of Sam: Foster Baptised.

[4th Mo.] In this month Edward Foster The sõ of Sam: Foster baptised . . .

1. of 9mo 57 Mary Parker the daughter of sister pker wife of Joseph pker Baptised . . .

Josiah Nutting This d. [date uncertain] Bro. Nuttings child baptised

Joseph Hildrick Some few week befor Br. Hildrick child

12 of 7 58. This day Moses Fiske, being suddenly to depte to the Colledge was called forth before the Church: & owned thr his followeth Cov^{t} in the face of the Church, psonally in cov^{t} engaging himself to the Church, & the Church to him, as in the forme as followes. [Here follows the covenant.] . . .

[13 of 12, 59] Sarah Nutting the daughter of Br. & Sister Nutting Baptised Zechariah pker the sõ of Bro. Ja: pker Baptised . .

21 of 7. 60 Isaack Parkr the sõ of Abrã Parker Baptised . . .

9 of 9 61 On this day. the 3 bre: Ja: parker, Ja: Fiske, Jo^{n} Nutting ppounded to the Church. That they haueing some thoughts and inclinations to a Remoue, desired to ppound it to the Church, that (as they may see God to make way for them) they may haue the Churches loueing leaue so to doe, & their prayers for them, for a blessing of God upõ there vndertakeings.

This being pposed by the pasto^{r}, he added that himself declined to speake ought in the case, one way or othr: but desired that the brethren might manifest themselves.

Br. Kemp. app^{r}hending not any nty of the remoue, wishd they would attend Gods call here.

Br. Ad: sd. twas a qu. whither the case wilbe resolued at p^{r}sent. as in r of the desire. [In margin] These as a brothr he declared

Twas replyed: that they being yet disingagd, had but the oportunity, as till the next 3^{d} day of the weeke, to giue in their Answr to Groton. & they desired an answr frõ the Church by that time.

Br. Ad. furthr sd. they saw a call of God leading them to this place & if they app^{r}hended a call of God away, twas nēy [necessary] they should giue an accõnt to the Church of their call hence.

Br. Chāb̄l. p^{r}ssed also, that they render to the Church their grounds

The pasto^{r} answrd. that if any one or 2 more did speake to that purpose, he would put it to the vote, to see if it now the Churchs mind they should giue their grounds: & if it app to be the mind onely of 2 or 3 brethr. He should heare them, to take p^{r}vate satisfaction.

Heereupõ scarce a man in the Church, but p^{r}sently sd. the grounds, the grounds.

So the pastō desired the br: to approue their grounds

Br. parkr stepping up to speak. the pastō asked him, (he speaking in the plural numb) whithr he spake the grounds of them all there or only his owne: Answrd. tho they had each of them sō ptic. grounds of lesse[r] conseq. yet in the mayne they now all agreed. or to that effect.

& then sd. that he for his pte owned that God had a hand in bringing him hither: & he hoped he shold see the sā oūruling hand of his, in his Remoue.

& as to their grounds, tis not their desire to exp[r]sse them in ptic, vnlese it shall be pticularly desired & urged Onely in gn̄al that it is bec. of sevral things p[r]ese upō their spits as in refference to Church Administration, & sō uncomfortable differences, as they all know are wonted to arise abt the sā; & added, y[t] if he could enjoy all ordin: or Administration, as according to Rule, as he app[r]hended, he for his pte would not remoue

Br. Fiske pfsed his assent. & added, y[t] as his ends of coming were not knowne to God, & in sō measure to the Church, so it would be no smale thing that should moue him to a Remoue.

Heervpō much was sd by one & othr

& the pastor pceivd the matter to tend to much agitatiō moued for a Church meeting the following day

Br. Ad. (opposing the hearing of the grounds in ptic) haueing pposd, that it might be put to passe in the Church. whithr the deacōs of the Church, remayn such in the Church of Chelmsford, as there is no cause for these Br. upo that account to remoue

Br. par. Replyed.

1 that the ppō for a voate seemed not according to a rule

2. that if their grounds might not be hrd, he hoped they would not make the Church a p[r]fer.

the pasto moved that the grounds might be considerd, considering it would also reflect vpo the Church. they were Bro: & eithr in an erro[r] and mistake and they need to be holpen: or not, & then the Church need to considr it. & so p[r]ssed for a meeting next day

Bro. Ad. declined it & objecting ag it tooth & nayl, sd it tended to the breach of the Church: and we had no call of God to hear them.

Twice it was voted. 1 for a meeting at 10 a clock. & then all voted exept himself & one more: then at the motiō of br. Fletchr. at 9. a clock, & then 3 or 4 only dissntd

10 of 9 61. At this ch. meeting Br. Ad. Fl. & Chabl. absent rest p[r]sent. br. Chābl probably knew not of the meeting

At wch meeting. they prfessed if the Church had ben all togethr, they would & had entended ingenuously to have agreed themselves. but seeing sō principal bro: and one as seems to them, purposely absent, they conceivd it their prudence rathr to decline the exprsing of

the grounds. in ptic than to give occasiõ of any breach or divisiõ in the Church

& as they remoue, for their owne peace sake, so they are unwilling to spring aught, (tho lying, as ned such greife upo their owne spits) as should tend to the breach of the place. It being pfessed by divers yesternight, that the Church is looked at to be in good state & union at p^{r}sent neithr was it the meaning to speak so, if they had spoken as to accuse the Church, or any ptic. psos in the Church. but to haue seene what ease they could have obteynd to their owne spits.

Br. Nutting pposed one ground further in r of his one ptic. viz. the inconveniences of his p^{r}snt situation & that he could not help himself. for in remoueing to his remote accomodations, haueing sevral smale childr, he should much dep^{r}ue himself or wife of the ordin: by that means. & sought rather the setling himself comfortably for the outward mã, nigh to the meeting house.

After much Agitation in the p^{r}sence and absence of the 3 brethren, they cã to this result for Answr.

That the case of the br. Remoue was doubtful to vs at p^{r}sent & we desird furthr consideration of it so as if puid: shall in meane time before they can heare futhr frõ us, setle them in their pposed way, we shall leaue the Matter to God: if othrwise, by their leafe or othr pvid: they shalbe delayed, we shall be willing they shall hr furthr frõ us, so soone as we shall resolne o^{r}selues.

At this meeting also voted

1 that we should call upõ Tho: Barret to know his reasos why he psecuted not his motion of Joyning in o^{r} cov^{t}

2 that Jacob parker shld be joynd wth the pastõ & deac^{s} in p^{r}vate Tryal

3. that in case he attend with a desire to pceed, he shold be informd that tis the mind of the Church that he should w^{h} satisfy the Church for his vnbrothrly & treachers appearing at Concord Church. ag: this Church in bro: procters case, & that aftẽ himself had declared himself satisfied with the Church. so (proh dolor) the case is left. so

that in case these bre: they remoue. Suppose (as in charity to them) their plea Real A Bro: or Breth. haueing matter of Greife or offence vpo their C^{s} respecting ecclesiastical Administration: neithr they may be admitted into a capacity of becoming better informed, in case erronious: nor the Church, nor any bro: in the Church, if under sin: of seeing their owne euil: & this sin shalbe smothered, & Conscience simply slighted!

23 of 10 61. A Church meeting appoytd upõ occasiõ of giving in the deacons Accounts. &c &c.

At wch meeting. it was agreed & votd that the Nõion of sõ psõ, to Officiet by way of pbatiõ till Bro: parker remoues.

At this meeting there were p^{r}sent 13 of the Church. Br. Fletchr went away at the begining. And absent were Br. Adams Br. Blogged Br. Ja: ffiske Br. Vnderwood.

& 1 it was argued whithr the Church might goe about so weighty a busines, without the rest of the Brethren, they not hauing notice of the busines.

& Twas Resolvd. 1. that their absence ought to be no hindrance to the Churchs pceedings, seeing they ought to haue been there. it being publickly agreed of.

2. that they absent could not be ignorant of Br. parkers Remoue, & of the ñty of the consideration of a seasonable supply in his roome

3. that there is no rule obvious, that ties eithr the officer to moation beforehand all the occasions of a Church meeting; or for a Church, if occasion be offered of the consideratiõ of sõ new matter, & when they are together, to defer the determination throf at p^{r}sent, bec. it was not eithr foreseene, or soe declared, as one reasõ of the meeting

4. that where a Church meeting is by gnal consnt appoytd, & publickly knowne: that they that doe meete haue the powr of transacting & defering matters, as a Church of Christ the grter numb at least wise being assembled.

2. It was argued whither o^{r} Br. Fletchr, stood not yet a pbationer?

& Twas resolued that 16 of 9 60 it being votd that Bro. Fletchr should be continued still upõ pbation to see if he can cã off to ye vote of the Church touching 2^{d}. Relations, or a Tryal of membs of othr Churches dismissd to vs, touching the worke of grace, before admissiõ

Bro: Fletcher thrvpõ declined, as he openly had Testifyd both by word & action, as sevral did there hold forth. to continue in their imploye & thrvpõ euen contrary to many entreaties & psuasions had forsaken the deacons seate. so as twas not the Church, but himself that had set himself by.

Herevpõ the Brethren pceeded to nõiati by paps

& whras it was objected as. Br. Ja: pker & Bro. Nuttings voteing, bec they now upõ a Remoue.

This case was also agitated & it resolued, that they being yet in full cõion with us, had by rule a right of voteing & acting with us. & ought not to be denyed it so they two also votd

& in the votes Bro: Hinksmã had 7. Br. Farwel 5 & Jacob pker 1. vote

Heerevpõ the 2 form̃ Brethen being desird their absence awhile. The rest controvertd, argued & agitatd the matter: & in fine by an unanimous vote agreed that the sd 2 former brethren, should be taken in as pbationrs. & nothing apping to the contrary, that it was intended by the Church in seasõ to pced with them both to ordination.

So Br. Hinksmã was to keep the box. booke, & acconts of constitutiõ. Br. Kemp to pvide the bread & the wine. & Bro Farwl. to take the charge of the linen & pewter &c.

this day Br. Abr. parkr was chosen in Br. Nuttings place, to take care of the clensing the meeting house that it be kept in a desent posture & of the bower glasse, Cushion &c. For a yeere.

[In margin] He refusing attend Br. Biã was chosen & acceptd

Br. Thos Barrets case was considerd on. as standing off frõ Joyning in with us in cov^{t} bc. of a difference (as he held forth) betweene Ja: Richardsõ & himself. So twas resolvd, that he should be at p^{r}snt let alone & obserue to see his way, & what he would doe, seing that neither we had reasõ to urge him, nor reasõ to remitt his L^{rs} of dismissiõ, such as wld passe current ad populũ

The Accounts being giuen in by Br. Ja: Parker of the Churchs receipts expenses &c for yeere past, so far as concerns the Lo: day contributio: whras there appd sõ that had not contributd to the Church stock, or aboute what was belonging to the defreying the chrge of the elemts it being objected they shld be brought up to their duty

Twas answd 1. the Church left them to their liḃty

2 that they now exempted their hauing any hand (in the disposing of any pte of the Church stock), with the rest of the brethren.

The accounts are to be ḋḋ. in to the pastõ & the othr deacons, to be Recorded by them. . . .

28 of 3 65 Jos. pkers wife & hr children dismissed to the Church at Groton

as aboute a q^{r} of a yeere before: the wife of Jam: parker. of Jam: Fiske. of Jo^{n} Nutten likewise with their children dismissed. as before. .

2d of 8 65 This day after the Afternoone exercise the Church met at my house . . .

2 My son Moses was ppounded to the Church to joyne in full fellowship . . .

5 of 9 65 Moses fiske, after a pfesiõ of his faith made in the publ. congregatiõ respecting both the doctrine of faith: & the worke of faith upõ his owne soule: & the manifestation of his appbatiõ of & consent to the confessiõ of this Church: was receiued into the cov^{t} of this Church, & so into full cõion.

This day Moses fiske exercised in publ. on the afternoone, frõ Eccl. 12. 1. 12 of 9. 65 . . .

Bro: Jo^{n} Wrights child baptized. Ebenezer Wright. 28 of 11. . .

11 of 12 65 Elizabeth Steuens Baptised

18 of 12 65. Lidiah Parker the daughter of Abrã pker baptisd . . .

Samuel, Pelatiah, Abraham { Whitemore the sons of o^{r} sister Butterfeild in ther minority } Baptised 8 of 5. 66

y. 65 CHILDREN BAPTISED IN CHELMS. CHURCH

9 of 1 Rachel the daughter of Jac. & Sarah pker
15. of 11. Josiah & Benj: the sons of John & Hannah Blanchard
12 of 2. Mehitebel Baret the daughter of Tho: (& Francis)
24 of. 4. Solomõ Keyes the sõ of Solomõ & Francis
15. of. 7 Samuel procter the sõ of Rob. & (Sarah)
11 of 9 Ebenezer Wright the son of John (& Abigaile)
8 of 12 Eliz. Steuens the daught^{e} of John (& Elisabeth)
1. of 2^{d} ^{66} Eliz. & Mary the daughters of James & Margaret Hildreth . . .

On this day Bridget the wife of Ja: Ritchardsõ taken into full fellowship & her youngst child baptisd. [In margin] 16. of 7. 66 Bridget Ritchardsõ receid Eliz. hr daughtr baptisd . . .

the daughter of Sa: Fletchers Wife viz. Margeret fletcher [In margin] Hannah Fletcher Baptised

Baptised Tho: & James the sons of sister Ritchardsõ the wife of Ja: Ritchardsõ. [In margin] 23 of 7. 66. Tho Ja: Ritchardsõ Bapt. . . .

Josua fletcher Vpon a Report touching Jos. Fl. that he had ben at Road Island among the Quakers. & of his idle expensiue caroses at Grotõ Concord &c The Ch. was called to consider of the matter. Br. Adams confirmd the report. saying to this effect in the Church That he was in a way to ruine himself, & to spoyle othrs, & he would be in danger to spoyle his children (for at that time one of his sons was with Jos. at Groton . gone thithr when he was frõ home. & had ben thr sevral dayes, & had bought a horse thr (but his fa: made his bargayne voyd.) in the pcesse of the discourse. Br. Adams p^{r}ssed the Church to brake into the ground work. viz. his fathrs family, & spake much that way, laying the cause & roote of all this, upõ the pũts & family. whrvpõ the Church chose sevral to be joynd with the officer to search into the matter, & to driue it as far as they could & then to bring it unto the Church. the brethren chosen were. Br. Farwel Br. Spalding Br. Adams. who declined to act in the matter bec. of relatiõ to the Church chose Leift. Fostr in his roome. othrs p^{r}sent at the p^{r}vate agitation at my house were Br. Barge Br. Jac. pker Br. Kemp. Moses Fiske.

y. 66. on 26 of. 10. we met. & Jos. Fl. attended. sev^{r}al things were spoke to him. but he excused & evaded all. & in reference to his leaving his fa: family & so being out of Gods way, alledged his fathrs consent. & as to the cause there were sõ that would manage that besids for more p^{r}vat examining of things betw̃ his fa: & him.

L. of C.

y. 66. upõ 1. of 11. Jos. being sent to by Br. Farwel & br. Spalding to attend on this day after the Lecture, who also had pmisd them yet attended not the brethren, who wayted for his coming till nigh sun set. & after we had information that he wd by the house in the time whilst we were together, with Mary Martin behind him.

Matters lay vpõ furthr enq^{r}ry & consideratiõ vntill 3mo 67. & then vpõ a Sab. day after the aftrnoone exercise he had notice by J^{on} Burge & Jac. Parker to attend the Church but he attended not.

About a 4^{night} or 3. weeks after, he was called forth in the next congregation: & chrged with these 4 ptic.

1st his non-attendance upõ the Church when req^{r}ed

2^{d} his non-attendance upõ the officer & Br. when req^{r}ed

3. his non-attendance upõ catechising neithr in publ. nor p^{r}uate since his leaueing his fathers house.

4. his non-attendance upõ his fathrs counsel & govrn^{t}.

his Answr to the last was, that he could not justify, bt did condeme himself in pte. the other he somewhat shifted & excusd

But before his charges. he publickly owud himself (being demandd) to be under the watch & govrn^{t} of Christ in his Church.)

After sevral agitations in sd p^{r}vate Church meetings aboute the matter twas voted: that he should be admonished the vote passed 23 of 4. 67

The admonitiõ was giuen 30 of 4. 67. The ground was. his haueing for sõ space of time acted the pte of a Child of Belial. 2 Cor. 6. 15...

18. of 12. 67 A ch. meeting upõ the Deacons Accounts . . .

This day there passed these vots . . .

3 That the Deacons lay out to the value of 20 s^{s} for the use of S. Shiply this following yeere, to the procuring her sõ wine, sugar or such other Refreshings, as she may stand in need of: & to bring it in, in the accounts. . . .

Hannah Balke receiᵈ into full coion this day seuennight she had this day 2 children viz Hannah & Sarah Baptisd [In margin] 23 of 3. 69 Hannah Balke . . .

This d. the scrt. (Tho. Ad. & his wife absent.) phebe Ritchardsõ the daughter of sister Ritchrdsõ & Ja: Ritch^{ds} Baptised 10 of 2. 70 . . .

Mary Butterfeild Baptisd. the daughter of Mary Butterfeild 8 of 3. 70

Nathaniel Blogged the sõ of dan Blogged baptised 15. of 3. 70 . . .

1 of 6. 70. Bro. [Henry] Farewel dyed suddenly in the morn: & was buryed upõ o^{r} Lecture day. . . .

1 of 10. 70. Bro: Butterfeilds Accounts . . .

đđ to Sister Shiply	00 – 12 – 00
" to Sister Shiply y. 70	00 – 10 – 00 . . .

Mary Warren the Daughter of Rich. Hildr. p^{r}sentd hrselfe to Tryal. 18 of 2. 72 ppounded to the Church. ppounded in the publ. congregatiõ 22 of 2 72 After owned hr sa: Cov^{t}. & hr 2 childr baptised 28. of 2. 72 . . .

30 of 1. 73 Josiah Ritchrdsõ in m^{o} 2^{d} his Children Baptisd

11 of 3. 73 Priscilla Spalding This day she haueing stood ppounded a forthnight, was Admitted (Her Relation being Red) vnto full cõion. hr children Dorathy, & Deborah & Sarah. Baptised

13 of 5. 73 Lidia perhã This day hr relatiõ being Red, & othr things orderly attended. She was admitted to full coion Her Children: Mary, John, Joseph, Anna Baptisd

10 of 6. 73 Hannah Spalding Received into full cõion with the Church & hr 6. Children on 24 of 6 Baptised viz. John, Edward, Samuel, Vnice, Hannah. Deborah.

24 of 6. 73 Mary Woodhead Recei^{d} into full cõion in this Church. & her 2 children that had ben before baptised in Concord.

17 of 8. 73 Mary Waddle She haueing ben Admitted into full fellowsh with this Church: was herself & her 3 childr Mary. Rose. & Willia. Baptised. in p^{r}snce of the Congregatiõ.

9 of 9. 73 Hannah farwel, She Admittd to o^{r} cov^{t} & Aftr Hannah, Joseph, Elizabeth baptised

14 of 10 73 Joseph Spalding the son of Jn^{o} & Hannah Spalding Baptised.

11 of 11 73 Sam fletcher Señ hs Child baptised caled W^{m} fletcher

18 of 11. 73 Rich Hildreth had his dismissiõ & of 3. of his Children, Joseph Percy & Isaack. gravnted him, to the Ch: at Cambridge: according to his desire. he declaring his purpose of setlem^{t} there & of liueing & dying there.

8 of 12 73 Jacob Warren Mary Warren These two admitted to full cõion this day in o^{r} church & they had 2 children Infants, wch they resigned to the watch of this church (Jacob. & Joseph.

31 of 11 74 Henry farwel. the son of Hannah farewel baptised . . .

Elizabeth woodhead, daughter of Sister Mary woodhead Baptised 28 of 12 74

Joseph barret (being taken into ful fellowship last Sabbat) was on this day baptised & his daughter Rebeca: 4 of 2. 75 . . .

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EXTRACTS

FROM THE NOTE-BOOK OF

THE REV. JOHN FISKE,

1637-1675.

With an Introduction

By SAMUEL A. GREEN.

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